

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5540
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PO
SUBJECT: EANES DELIVERS SOBER APRIL 25 ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES IN HIS APRIL 25 SPEECH ANSWERED
HIS CRITICS BY REAFFIRMING PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY WITH
A HARD-HITTING CRITICISM OF THE RIGHT, THE LEFT, AND
GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY. HE INSISTED ON RAPID
PROGRESS TOWARD AUTONOMY FOR THE AZORES AND MADEIRA,
AN END TO PARTISAN EXPLOITATION OF ISLAND ISSUES,
AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PORTUGUESE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.
END SUMMARY.

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1. EANES HIGHLIGHTS AZORES AND PRESIDENTIAL AUTHORITY:
PRESIDENT EANES GAVE THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS DURING THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY'S APRIL 25 COMMEMORATIVE SESSION
FOLLOWING PARTISAN SPEECHES BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIVE
POLITICAL PARTIES. EANES MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS IN
HIS WARMLY-RECEIVED 30 MINUTE SPEECH:

-- NATIONAL INTEGRITY ASSURED IN ISLANDS: AZOREAN AND MADERIAN AUTONOMY MUST BE GRANTED QUICKLY AND PARTISAN EXPLOITATION OF ISSUES AFFECTING THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS MUST END. IN THE FACE OF THREATS FROM FOREIGN INTERESTS, THE PRESIDENT WILL USE ALL NECESSARY MEANS TO GUARANTEE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. (COMMENT: THIS WAS THE MOST HEAVILY APPLAUDED PASSAGE IN THE SPEECH.)

--INSISTENCE ON GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY: RESPECT FOR LAW MUST BE ESTABLISHED. LAWS MUST BE PUBLISHED AND ENFORCED. MERIT RATHER THAN POLITICAL MOTIVES MUST BE THE CRITERIA FOR PROMOTION. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM MUST BE SPEEDED UP. THE GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE ALL THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE LAWS.

--PRIVATE INITIATIVE ENCOURAGED: THE STATE ASSUMED IN THE POST-REVOLUTION PERIOD RESPONSIBILITIES BEYOND ITS CAPACITY. GOVERNMENT ACTION IN THE ECONOMIC, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL FIELDS MUST NOT BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO OTHER ACTIVITIES OR A BURDENSOME COST. ADEQUATE EQUILIBRIUM MUST BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. PRIVATE INITIATIVE MUST BE GIVEN CONDITIONS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CREATIVITY.

--CONSTITUTION NOT A SCAPEGOAT: THE CONSTITUTION HAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO CONFORM TO NATIONAL NEEDS. OUR DIFFICULTIES CANNOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE CONSTITUTION.

--CALL TO ACTION: WE MUST MOBILIZE OUR HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES TO CONFRONT THE SERIOUS CRISIS WHICH CHALLENGES PORTUGAL'S VERY INDEPENDENCE. THE PRESIDENT IS LESS CONCERNED WITH WHO GOVERNS THAN HOW THEY GOVERN. THE PRESIDENT WILL ASSURE THROUGH ALL CONSTITUTIONAL MEANS THE CONDITIONS TO GOVERN.

2. MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS: PRESIDENT EANES ALSO DELIVERED AN APRIL 25 MESSAGE TO THE ARMED FORCES WHICH RECALLED THE MILITARY'S UTILIZATION FOR PARTISAN INTERESTS PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1975 AND ENCOURAGED RETURN TO THE HIERARCHICAL CHAIN OF COMMAND AND SUBORDINATION OF THE MILITARY TO CIVILIAN POWER. EANES SAID THE ARMED FORCES MUST BLOCK THOSE SEEKING TO GAIN MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ANOTHER TOTALITARIAN ATTEMPT. EANES ASKED THE ARMED FORCES TO DEFEND THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME BY REMAINING COHESIVE AND DISCIPLINED. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ALSO ASKED IN AN APRIL 25 MESSAGE FOR HARD WORK AND ACCEPTANCE OF SACRIFICES DURING THE DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL

NOTED FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT ITS OWN MISSION WAS "TRANSITORY"
AND ASKED FOR NATIONAL UNITY TO CONSOLIDATE
DEMOCRATIC STATUS.

3. ALL QUIET: APRIL 25 CELEBRATIONS THROUGH-
OUT THE COUNTRY ALMOST WITHOUT EXPCPTION WERE HELD
QUIETLY AND WITHOUT INCIDENT.

4. COMMENT: EANES' APRIL 25 SPEECH WAS DIRECT AND HARD-
HITTING -- A REPLY TO PRESIDENTIAL CRITICS. IN HIS ROLE
AS IMPARTIAL ARBITER, HE CRITICIZED THE LEFT, THE RIGHT,
AND THE GOVERNMENT. HE INSISTED ON BETTER PERFORMANCE
WITHOUT DEFINING HOW HE MIGHT ACT WITHIN CONSTITUTINAL
LIMITS. ON THE AZORES AND MADEIRA, EANES SET THE LIMITS FOR FUTURE
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PERFORMANCE. HE ALSO DISPLAYED ONCE AGAIN HIS SENSITIVITY
TO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN THE ISLANDS.
BLOOMFIELD

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